

## ***Idaho Tree Identification and Biographies***

**Subject(s):** Language Arts, Science, Math, Art

**Grade Level:** 5<sup>th</sup> and 6th

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**Time Required:** 6 hours

**Lesson Objectives:**

Students will research to create a document that provides a variety of information about specific Idaho trees. They will then create a biographical composition of an Idaho tree that includes descriptions, habitats, growth patterns, predators, survival traits, economic uses, and ecological impacts on the environment.

**Materials Needed:**

Paper, pencils, colored pencils, and resource material that includes a poster of Idaho trees available from Idaho Forest Products Commission.

**Outline of Activities:**

Background: Idaho has eight major softwood trees. They are Douglas-fir, western redcedar, grand fir, western hemlock, western larch, lodgepole pine, western white pine and ponderosa pine. Idaho's economy is dependent on the forest industry. People have an impact on tree survival.

Preparation: Gather research materials, assign students specific trees, make a rubric and give students copies and collect samples of specific trees to display.

Enrichment: Students write essays as if they were the trees, illustrate a growth cycle, or have the class debate the value of each type of tree or the best type of forest management.

Helpful Resources: Internet, PLT Activity Guide and materials, library and government agencies

**Procedure:**

1. Ask what the students know about Idaho trees.
2. Introduce Idaho trees by using the poster.
3. Explain expectations of each student's writing and research project.
  - a. Timeline requirements.
  - b. At least two research requirements.
  - c. Completion of research rubric (shown on next page).
  - d. Write rough draft report using all information from the research rubric.
  - e. Revise rough draft.
  - f. Complete final copy.
  - g. Complete an illustration of the tree.
  - h. Present final project to the class.

**Discussion:**

1. What are the major softwood trees grow in Idaho?
2. Which Idaho softwood trees have the longest lifespan?
3. What economic value do these trees have to Idahoans?
4. What are the best management practices to maintain healthy forests?

**Rubric**

Description	Habitat	Growth Cycle
Predators/Disease	Economic Use	Ecological Impact
Survival Traits	Interesting Facts	Resources